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MEXICO.

Yellow fever at Chilpancingo.

CITY OF MEXICO, MEXICO, *September 14, 1899.*

SIR: Referring to my telegram of this date reporting the presence of yellow fever in Chilpancingo, Guerrero, I have the honor to inform you that the time distance from Chilpancingo to the City of Mexico is three days; twenty-four hours of this time being required in traveling by stage from Chilpancingo to the Balsas River, one of the termini of the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific line. I have begun sending lists of hotel arrivals in Cuernavaca to the border, and have suggested the possible danger of freight from this source. Until the disease reaches the railroad there will be practically no danger from the passenger traffic.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Sanitary report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *September 15, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended September 14: Number of cases of yellow fever, 7; number of deaths, 8. September 8, no cases, no deaths; September 9, 3 cases, 2 deaths; September 10, no cases, 3 deaths; September 11, 1 case, 1 death; September 12, 1 case, 1 death; September 13, no cases, no deaths; September 14, 2 cases, 1 death. Total cases, 7; total deaths, 8. The mortality from all causes was 55.

During the past two weeks I have inspected 14 vessels, and issued certificates to 137 passengers.

The health of the city is improving, and there is very little sickness in the harbor.

On September 13 the British steamship *Saxon Prince* sailed for New York via Tampico. A day or two before sailing 2 men were brought ashore to the hospital suffering from fever. It was first rumored that the cases were yellow fever, but when the captain went to the British consul to pay them off he had a certificate from the attending physician for paludic fever. I inspected the vessel before she sailed and found everything all right, but when the captain applied for a bill of health he stated that the men had gastric fever. I issued the bill of health according to the captain's statement, with an interrogation after gastric. I have not seen the cases, but as the attending physician changed his diagnosis from yellow to bilious on a previous occasion, I am a little skeptical about the condition of these cases. * * *

I have written to Dr. L. E. Cofer in the City of Mexico that it is useless for him to disinfect baggage there for Cuba and the States via Vera Cruz, as the passengers arrive here and, as a rule, go to the hotels with their belongings. A few hours in the hotels and boarding houses of Vera Cruz is sufficient to infect the baggage, and a noninfected certificate from Dr. Cofer would mislead the inspectors in Havana and the States.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.